

MEMORANDUM

To: Parties in PSB Docket No. 7628

From: Susan M. Hudson, Clerk of the Board

Re: Site visit

Date: September 17, 2010

As referenced in the July 14, 2010, prehearing conference memorandum, the Public Service Board ("Board") will be conducting a site visit on Thursday, September 23, 2010, commencing at 12:00 P.M. and ending at 5:00 P.M. Attendees should meet at the Lowell Bowling Alley, located at 3010 Route 100, Lowell, Vermont.

Several of the parties have proposed locations to include in the site visit. After reviewing the requests filed by the parties, the Board has determined that it will follow the attached itinerary.

Some of the parties proposed two additional stops for the September 23 site visit: (1) Wild Branch Wildlife Management Area, and (2) Eden Dog Sledding. These stops have not been included because the road is inadequate for bus travel. Some of the parties have also proposed a second site visit to include the site on Lowell Mountain for the proposed wind turbines and a portion of the Long Trail, including the Tillotson Camp. The Board will consider scheduling an additional site visit for the proposed locations.

Some of the parties have requested that during the site visit the applicant arrange for three tethered weather balloons to be flown above the proposed wind turbine sites at an elevation approximating that of the highest point of the proposed wind turbines when the top rotor blade is in a vertical position (i.e., approximately 440 feet above the site). The parties requested that the balloons be flown at the following locations: (1) approximate site of the southernmost proposed turbine location or near the Eden/Lowell town line; (2) the approximate site of the northernmost proposed turbine location approaching the point where the Bailey Hazen Road crosses the Lowell Mountain ridgeline; and (3) approximate midpoint of the 3.5 mile running distance on the ridgeline for the proposed turbines. Green Mountain Power Corporation stated its opposition to the request, maintaining that

the balloons will not provide an accurate depiction of height or location if there is any wind and that a six-foot red balloon at the blade tip height overstates the visual impact.

Based on past experience with balloon simulations for wind generation projects, the Board does not believe the requested balloon simulations are necessary, nor are they likely to be helpful. In past simulations, the high elevation wind pattern has disrupted attempts at flying the balloons to their proper height and placement. Additionally, the existing wind measurement towers at the proposed project site, while not of the same height, will likely provide a useful visual reference that would not be subject to disruption by ridgetop winds.

Public Service Board Docket No. 7628
Lowell Mountain Wind Project - Site Visit Itinerary
September 23, 2010, 12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Start Point and End Point: Lowell Bowling Alley, 3010 Route 100, Lowell, Vermont

Travel south along Route 100.

Stop 1: Meek Road Substation, off Route 100, Lowell.

Travel south along Route 100.

Stop 2: State Fishing access on northeast end of Lake Eden, off Route 100, Eden.

Travel to Craftsbury via East Hill Road.

Stop 3: Craftsbury Common, North Craftsbury Road.

Travel to Nelson Farm via North Craftsbury Road, Route 14, and New Road.

Stop 4: Nelson Farm, Bailey Hazen Road, Albany.

Travel to Albany Center via Water Street and Center Hill Road.

Stop 5: Albany Center, Center Road.

Travel to Irasburg via Delano Road and Route 14.

Stop 6: Irasburg Common, Intersection of Route 58 and Route 14.

Travel to Leavitt Circle via Route 14, Route 100, Route 101, and Route 105.

Stop 7: Transmission Line at VEC's Jay Tap Switching Station, Route 105.

Travel south via Route 105, Route 101, and Route 100.

Stop 8: Lowell Grade School - view Lowell substation, 2170 Route 100.